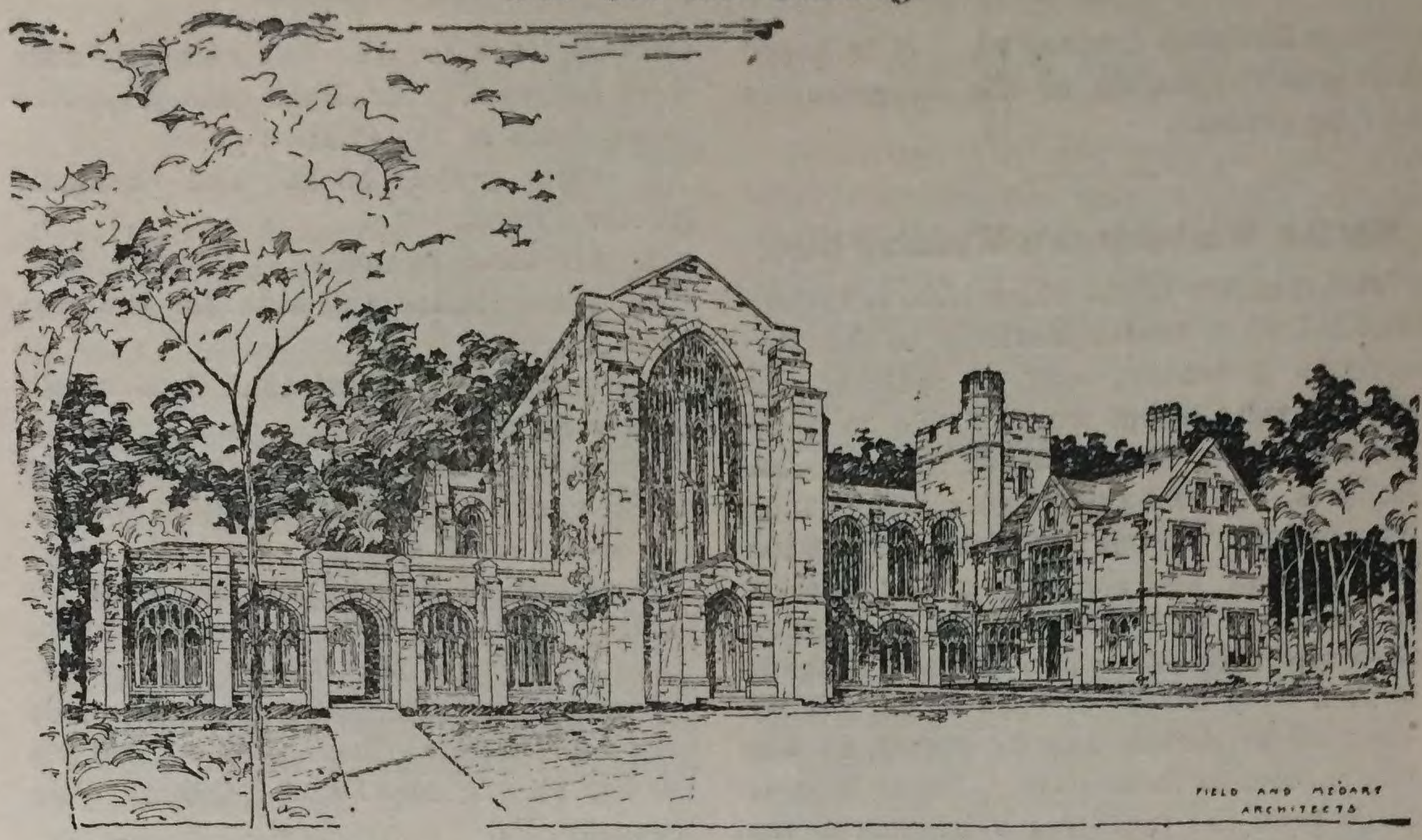
"For God and Country.



Cloister of the Colonies. Washington Memorial Chapel. Patriots' Hall. Tower and Rectory or Library

"No spot on earth—not the plains of Marathon, nor the passes of Sempach, nor the place of the Bastile, nor the dykes of Holland, nor the moors of England—is so sacred in the history of the struggle for human liberty as Valley Forge."

—CYRUS TOWNSEND BRADY.

The Washington Chapel Chronicle

Valley Forge.

A RECORD OF RELIGION AND PATRIOTISM.

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY THE WASHINGTON CHAPEL GUILD.

MISS EMMA W. CRAWFORD, Editor. MRS. ROBERT WOOD, Business Manager

25 Cents a Year; Single Copies 3 Cents.

Entered as second class matter, April 22, 1908, at the post office at Valley Forge, Pa., under act of March 3, 1879.

VOL. III. OCTOBER 15, 1910 NO. 7

Canonical Consent to the Organization of the Washington Memorial Chapel Parish.

The following letter from Bishop Whitaker will be of the deepest interest to all of the congregation and to the friends of the Chapel:

Diocese of Pennsylvania,
The Church House,
12th and Walnut Streets.
Philadelphia, Oct. 7, 1910.

My Dear Burk:

In accordance with the advice and consent of the Standing Committee of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, I hereby give consent for the organization of the congregation of Washington Memorial Chapel into an independent parish, and you are now at liberty to proceed with such organization under the provisions of Canon XVIII.

With all best wishes, I am
Faithfully yours,
O. W. Whitaker,
Bishop of Pennsylvania.

The congregation will meet on Thursday, October 20, at 8 o'clock, in the parish house to organize the new parish and to elect vestrymen. The charter will be adopted at this meeting and other im-

portant business transacted. It is hoped that every member of the congregation will be present.

Martha Washington's Wedding Gift.

The romance of the olden time is vividly recalled by a recent addition to the Museum. A century and a quarter ago Miss Sarah Broom was a bride in Winchester, Va. Her husband was Mr. Jas. Roberts, of the same town. The happy pair counted among their friends Martha Washington, and she showed her interest in them and their future home by sending as a wedding gift a pair of cake baskets, with a deep border of open work. They were silver plated, heavily plated, as was the custom in those days. These baskets have been the treasured heirlooms of the descendants of Mrs. Roberts, and now her granddaughters, Miss Sarah M. Henry and Miss Margaret H. Henry, of Philadelphia, have loaned them to the Museum to be exhibited with the other relics of the Washingtons.

Washington Chapel Guild.

A special meeting of the Guild was held at Mrs. Charles Wells Walker's, September 21, 1910. Twelve members and two guests were present. Miss Hibbs was appointed secretary pro tem. The annual report of the treasurer was re-read by the treasurer pro tem., Mrs. S. C. Summerill. The chief business before the meeting was the discussion of the luncheon for convocation and satisfactory menu and plans were adopted. Refreshments were served by the hostess, and the Guild adjourned to meet Oct. 5th.

The regular monthly meeting of the Guild was held in the parish house on Wednesday, Oct. 5th. The meeting was opened with prayer by Rev. W. Herbert Burk. In the absence of the president, Miss Hibbs was appointed president pro tem. Five members only were present; so the proposed amendment to the by-laws was left over for the next meeting. Contributions for the fall rummage sale were solicited. Mr. Burk then presented three needs of the Chapel:

1. Fifty prayer books and hymnals for the Chapel.
2. Six choir hymnals.
3. Water boiler and sink for the sexton's kitchen.

Motions were carried that these needs should be met.

The next meeting of the Guild will be at Stewart Fund Hall, King-of-Prussia, November 2d, at 2.30 p. m.

Donations of five dollars ($5) each for choir hymnals have been given by Miss Anna Cutler and Mrs. Colket Walker.

Contributions for the rummage sale may be sent Mrs. Chas. Wells Walker, Devon, Pa., or Mr. Frank Quigg, Port Kennedy, Pa.

The Convocation of Norristown.

[From Norristown Herald, September 30.]

The Convocation of Norristown held its fall meeting yesterday in the Washington Memorial Chapel, Valley Forge. The Rev. W. Herbert Burk, minister in charge of the chapel, officiated at the service of the Holy Communion, assisted by the Rev. George W. Barnes, secretary of the Convocation, and the Rev. Henry St. C. Hathaway, rector of St. John's Church, Norristown. The Rev. Mr. Hathaway preached a strong sermon in denunciation of narrow parochialism, and declared that vestries and congregations through their selfishness destroyed the ideals of the young priests of the church and made them time-servers. So much time was spent in mending the nets, paying debts, struggling with finances where cents were given when dollars were needed, adorning edifices, placing stained glass windows, elaborating musical programs, etc., that the real work of the church—the salvation of souls and the evangelization of the world—was left undone. The rich were sought not because their souls were to be saved, but because their gifts would enrich the treasury.

"The best cure for a run-down-in-the-heel parish," declared Mr. Hathaway, "is missionary work. Every parish should sustain a mission, or pay the salary of a missionary in some distant field."

At noon the Woman's Auxiliary to the Convocation of Norristown was called to order by the Rev. Mr. Burk in the absence of the president and vice president, and Miss Mary M. Hibbs was elected chairman. The treasurer's report showed encouraging gifts, but no new work was undertaken.

The luncheon was served in the parish house by the Washington Chapel Guild and other members of the congregation. The room was elaborately decorated for the occasion and a bounteous luncheon was delightfully served.

During the luncheon Bishop Mackay-Smith, who has been abroad for months on account of illness, came to the chapel and was given an ovation by the members of the Convocation, who were delighted to see him looking so well. The Bishop arrived in New York on Tuesday, and this was his first appearance in public. He presided at the emeting of the Convocation, and after the opening prayers, which included a thanksgiving for his safe return, he spoke of his gratitude for the return of health and for the privilege of taking up his work.

The resignation of the Rev. Roberts Coles was received with deep regret by the Convocation. The Rev. Mr. Coles has resigned his parish, the Church of Our Saviour, Jenkintown, and has taken a parish in Virginia. The Rev. J. Thompson Cole was nominated for the deanship but declined, and nominated the Rev. W. Herbert Burk. Mr. Burk, who is the senior rector of the Convocation, having been in Norristown for over sixteen years, was unanimously elected. The Bishop cordially endorsed his election and called Mr. Burk to the dean's chair. In a brief speech Mr. Burk thanked the Convocation for the honor and asked for the support of the members in carrying on the missionary work of the Convocation.

The reports of the missionaries were very encouraging, most notably so that of the Valley Forge Mission. Mr. Burk read a copy of the letter sent to Bishop Whitaker asking his consent to organize the mission as an independent parish.

The next meeting will be held at St. Peter's Church, Phoenixville.

Woman's Auxiliary to the Convocation

The regular meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Convocation of Norristown met at the Chapel on Thursday, September 29th. The attendance of the delegates was excellent, as nearly every parish was represented. In the absence of the president, Miss Derr, Miss Hibbs was appointed president pro tem. There was no especial business before the meeting except hearing the acknowledgment of previous gifts and the meeting adjourned to hear the needs of the Convocation as they should be presented in the business session.

Tea Room.

The tea room, during the fall months, will be kept open by volunteers. The season has been very successful and for the first year most promising of future success. The Guild is to be congratulated upon its efforts. Its future also lies in its hands, and the members who are willing to continue serving are requested to send their names to Mrs. Charles Walker and the Saturday afternoons most convenient for their attendance.

DONATIONS FOR THE TEA ROOM.

Two dollars ($2)—Mrs. Amelia Thropp, Oil City, Pa.

Five dollars ($5)—The Misses Ashbridge, Rosemont, Pa.

NEEDS OF TEA ROOM.

Ice pick, bread knife, silver knives, tea strainer, individual tea pots, serving trays and small water cooler.

Washington Memorial Chapel,
Valley Forge, Pa.

THE REV. W. HERBERT BURK
MINISTER IN CHARGE,
ALL SAINTS RECTORY, NORRISTOWN.

Mr. Frank Quigg, Treasurer,
Port Kennedy, Pa.

Mr. Leslie Jefferis,
Treasurer of the Building Fund,
Bridgeport, Pa.

William Rumford, Sexton.

Sundays.

2.30 P. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

3.45 P. M. Service and Sermon.

Second Sunday of the month, 10.30 A. M. Service, Sermon and Holy Communion.

Stewart Fund Hall
Sundays.

10.00 A. M. Sunday School and Bible Classes.

11.00 A. M. Service and Sermon.

Calendar.

OCTOBER.

16. Twenty-first Sunday after Trinity.

17. Service of Intercession for Sunday School Workers in All Saints' Church, Norristown.

18. St. Luke, the Evangelist.

20. 8 p. m., Meeting of the Washington Memorial Chapel congregation and election of vestrymen.

23. Twenty-second Sunday after Trinity.

28. Saint Simon and Saint Jude, Apostles.

30. Twenty-third Sunday after Trinity.

NOVEMBER.

1. All Saints' Day.
3.45 p. m. Service and sermon.

2. 2.30 p. m. Meeting of the Washington Chapel Guild, Stewart Fund Hall, King-of-Prussia.

6. Twenty-fourth Sunday after Trinity.

13. Twenty-fifth Sunday after Trinity.

A Valley Forge Musket.

The military history of Valley Forge is so important and so engrossing that few give any consideration to the industrial history of the place—a history which antedates the occupation by the American army, which only interrupted its peaceful current. This industrial history has been most varied and Valley Forge has been noted for its iron, its steel, its hardware, its cotton, its paper and its woolens.

Mr. Thomas S. Neale, of Norristown, has made a gift to the Museum which reminds us of one of the greatest of the Valley Forge industries — that of gun-making. Valley Forge muskets are very rare, and that given by Mr. Neale is in a remarkable state of preservation. This may be due to its having been kept for a long time in a United States arsenal. It was made for the army of the United States in 1833, and bears upon the plate the name of the maker, M. W. Evans, and the place of manufacture, "V. Forge." The lock is an exact copy of the Charleville lock, made in the French armory. Its only improvement over the original is in the nick in the screw of the cock, which allowed the jaws that held the flint to be tightened with a screw-driver. Otherwise the musket is made along the lines of the French model of 1763, adopted by the United States, and made at its armories in Springfield and Harper's Ferry.

John Rogers had been making cast steel at Valley Forge since 1818, securing his clay for the crucibles from Perth Amboy. From this steel he manufactured saws. Whether this was a success we do not know, but when in 1821 Brooke Evans, of Sheffield, England, went to Valley Forge, he was able to lease the saw factory and rolling mill. He made considerable additions to the plant, and for several years carried on the works. During this period he manufactured 20,000 muskets for the United States army.

Pistols were also made at the armory, and these seem to be even more rare

than the muskets. They are easily known from the stamp on the plate, "V. Forge." It is hoped in time one of these can be secured for the Museum.

After the gun factory was given up, the building was enlarged and used as a cotton and woolen mill.

History of the Valley Forge.

BY HENRY WOODMAN.

LETTER VII.

Norristown Herald and Free Press,
July 17, 1750.

It must appear evident from the foregoing accounts, that those were truly troublesome times. As noticed in one of my former letters, parties were nearly balanced. And there were others who wished to assume a neutral position. The latter, though not so much persecuted by the contending parties, were subjected to requisitions from both armies, and found their situation at best a very critical one, as much caution was necessary to preserve a strict neutrality, the movements of all were strictly watched. Those who adhered to the crown were persecuted by the colonists and the colonial army; and those who were known to be opposed to British authority, and openly acknowledged themselves in favor of freedom, and especially those who held commissions in the army, or were active in the service of the Continental Congress, were marked as objects of revenge by the enemy; while those who held a neutral position, and were not active in the cause of freedom, however they might be secretly disposed to favor it, if when requisitions for the use of either armies were made upon them, or their houses were entered by the British soldiery, if nothing was found in their possession that would have a tendency to convict them of any of the rebellious movements of that day, they were seldom much molested. But if anything, however small was found in their houses, or in their possession, it was often the cause of violence on the part of the enemy. This may account for the rage of the Hessians upon finding the cartridges, as before noticed, in possession of my grandfather; and had they upon that occasion, discovered anything else indicative of a hostile nature, or intended for hostile purposes, their resentment might possibly have known no bounds; and serious, if not fatal consequences might have followed.

The family were at this time in imminent danger, though entirely ignorant of it. The circumstances were these: The family of Colonel Dewees had left Valley Forge, and with the most of their furniture, had removed to his father-in-law's (Thomas Waters') where his wife and family (for the time being professing to be strict loyalists) were staying. Among the articles of furniture removed from Valley Forge were two chests which the wife of the Colonel wished to have kept at my grandfather's—she assuring them they contained nothing but some articles of clothing and some other things, which she wished to have secured in case of the enemy coming upon them. My grandmother, all kindness, consented to the request, and they were brought there. When the Hessians visited the house, although the chests were in the house and in one of the rooms they plundered—yet they were not broken open. Feeling uneasy on account of not knowing what was in them, on the following day, my mother went to Sarah Dewees, wife of the Colonel, and requested, or rather demanded the keys, that she might with certainty know what was contained in them; she told her to make herself perfectly easy, as there was nothing in them that if discovered would hurt or injure them. Being peremptory in her demand, the keys were reluctantly delivered to her, and she proceeded to open the chests; and, to her surprise, found they contained the Colonel's military uniform and insignia of office, his sword and other

weapons worn by officers of his rank, which if they had been discovered, would have produced much destruction of property, if not loss of life. She immediately gathered the whole contents into her arms, carried them to a quarry in a coppice of woods near the house (the place can now be pointed out) in which she threw the whole of them, and covering them with stones—thus spoiled the Colonel's hat and other military accoutrements. By this disinterested act of kindness, we may observe how narrowly they escaped the dangers to which they were unsuspectingly subjected, and the imminent danger they were placed in.

It may be proper to remark in justice to the commander of the British army, whose policy it was to secure as much as possible the confidence of the people, that these petty robberies and depredations were not sanctioned by him, or committed under his direction. They were done by a few Hessians who strolled from the camp, and committed these acts on their own responsibility. My grandfather's family was not a solitary instance of suffering from their rapacity. In their predatory movements, at the time alluded to, they paid no respect to persons, but visited all families, and treated all in the same unwelcome manner—taking everything of value they could lay hands upon, and were able to carry off—so that there were but few, if any families, but suffered in a greater or less degree, from their approximity to them. In some cases they were followed to the camp, and upon being pointed out to the officers, they were punished and as far as possible restoration made of the property. But few people in the neighborhood availed themselves of that method, for though the most of them, on account of their religious principles, had assumed a neutral position—yet there were few if any, but who were heartily disposed to favor the cause of freedom, and opposed to the royal cause; and when the British army took from the people who were known to be neither directly or indirectly concerned with the opposing party, any articles that were necessary to the support of their troops, restitution was always promptly made. Not as was generally supposed, so much from a sense of honesty, as a desire to secure from such conduct, the attachment and loyalty of the people.

The American army having abandoned the city of Philadelphia, and removed their sick and wounded, the British under the command of Gen. Howe, took possession of it. The battle of Germantown took place soon after, the result of which is too well known to be repeated here—suffice it to say, that in this engagement Gen. Nash was slain. It was to his division my father belonged; he was intimately acquainted with the General, in Hillsborough, North Carolina, where they had resided previous to the war, and always spoke of him in terms of the highest respect. He was near him when he fell, and was among a few others who conveyed his lifeless body to the cemetery of Towamencin Church, in Montgomery, where it was interred, and where I have understood a monument has been erected to his memory. It was near this place, on the heights of the Perkiomen and Skippack, called Methatchen Hills, that Washington with his army retired after the engagements, to recruit his forlorn and distressed soldiers, many of whom were almost ready to give up the cause of freedom as hopeless.

In my next I shall resume the subject, and endeavor to bring it up to the time of the arrival of the army at Valley Forge.

Mr. Judson Kerr, of the firm of Judson Kerr & Bro., of Philadelphia, for the second time, most generously donated a sufficient quantity of "potato chips" to serve at the Convocation luncheon on September 29th.

A VALLEY FORGE ORDERLY BOOK.

Printed by Courtesy of Its late Owner, Mr. George Clifford Thomas.

Head Qrs. Valley Forge Jany. 28th, 1778.
Major Genl.....Tomorrow.....DeKalb
Brigadier..... .....Weeden
Field officers.....Lt. Colo. Kerney, Major Hopkins
Brigade Major.....McClintock

As there has been an extraordinary and unaccountable waste of Ammunition in many of the Brigades, As soon as the Brigades are Compleated therewith, agreeable to yesterdays orders, The Commander in Chief Positively orders that the Colos: and Commanding officers of Regiements to see that an officer in each Company carefully examine their mens Ammunition every day at Roll calling in the Morning and severely Punish any Soldier who shall carelessly Waste a Single Cartridge.—At a Genl. Court Martial of which Major Church was president held Jany. 26th William McIntire a Soldier in the 7th Pennsylvania Battallion Tryed for Robbing a Load of Wheat, &c. of one of Colo. Spencers Waggoners found Guilty of a breach of the 5th Article & 18th Section of the Articles of War & Sent: him to Receive 30 Lashes on his Bare Back well laid on at the Head of his Own Regiement.—At the same Court Martial William Dearlove of the 4th Pennsylvania Battalion Tryed for Stealing Money from Frederick Bowsard Found Guilty and Sentenced to Receive 100 Lashes on his Bare Back.—The Comander in Chief Approves the foregoing Sentences & Orders them to be put in execution Tomorrow Morning at Roll Call at the Head of their Regiements they Respectively belong.—

At a Genl. Court Martial whereof Colo. Clark was President Jany. 22d. Thomas Scott who acted in the Charactor of a Waggon Masr. Tryed for taking forrage Contrary to Genl. orders the 31st Decemr. last was Acquitted of the Charge. The Gen. Approves the sentence And orders him to be Relased Immediately.—

At the Same Court Stephen Rice of the 8th Virginia Regiemt. Tryed for Plundering the Inhabitants of the Country found Guilty of the Charge being a Breach of the 15th Article 13th Section of the Articles of War & Sentence him to Receive 100 Lashes.

At the same Court Joseph Tern of the 2d Virginia Regt. Tryed for deserting from the Provost Gaurd & taking a prisoner with him found Guilty of a Breach of Article 1st Section 6th of the Articles of War & Sentenced to Receive 100 Lashes &c. . . . Likewise Robt. Gist Drummer in Colo. Lambs Regiement of Artillery tryed for attempting to Desert to the Enemy, found Guilty but on Acct. of his Youth only sentenced to Receive 50 Lashes.—

At a Genl. Court Martial whereof Colo. Clark was President Jany. 23d Benjn. Berry of Colo. Haits Regt. Tryed for attempting to desert to The Enemy, found Guilty & Sentenced to Receive 100 Lashes. —The Commander in Chief Approves the above Sentences and orders them to be put in Execution At Roll Call tomorrow Morning at the Head of their Regiements.—

Head Qrs. Valley Forge Jany 29th, 1778
Major Genl.....Tomorrow.....Green
Brigadier..... ....Woodford
Field officers.. .....Lt. Colo. Hermer Major Still
Brigade Major.....Learned

The Commanding officers of each Brigade Are to Appoint a Capt. daily to visit the Sick of His Brigade in & Near Camp to examine whither They have proper attention paid them & are furnishd with every thing their situation Requires as far as Circumstances will allow.—Likewise an Orderly officer every day to Inspect the Hutts to see Whither Cleanliness is Observ'd in the Soldiers Quarters And Proper means taken to Keep the Roofs weather Proof.—The Commissarys in future to Issue a Quart of Salt to every Hundred pounds of Frésh Beef.—

Head Qrs Valley Forge Jany 30th, 1778.
Major Genl.....Tomorrow.....Lord Starling
Brigadier..... ....Scott
Field officers..... .....Nagle Major Moore
Brigade Major..... .....Patterson

At a General Court Matrial whereof Major Church was President Held Jany. 26th Ensign Cook of the 12th Pennsylva-

nia Regt. Tryed for leaving His Gaurd before he was properly Releas'd it being An Out Gaurd—found Guilty of a Breach of the 4th Article 13th Section of the Articles of War Unanimously Sentenced to be Cashired with Infamy; The Commander in Chief Approves the Sentence and & orders it to take place Immediately. At a Genl. Court Martial whereof Colo. Clark was President held Jany. 23rd Wm. McMurst of Capt. Lees Company of Artilery Tryed for deserting and Stealing a Horse from Genl. McIntoshes Acquitted of the charge of desertion and found Guilty of a Breach of the 4th Article 13th Section of the articles of war and unanimously sentenced to be cashiered with infamy.

The Commander in Chief approves the sentince and orders it to take place Immediately.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

Bayard Wilkeson.

Visitors to the Museum are impressed with the cap and sash worn by Lieutenant Bayard Wilkeson at the time of his death upon the battlefield of Gettysburg, but few know the story of his heroism. Our readers will therefore be grateful to Mr. Reginald L. Hart for the following items sent in a letter correcting the inscription on the card with the mementoes of the youthful hero:

Bayard Wilkeson. N. Y. 2nd Lieut. 4th U. S. Artillery 22nd October, 1861. 1st Lieut. 14 August, 1862. Brevet Captain 1st July, 1863, for gallantry and skill at the battle of the Deserted House, Va.; Major 1st July, 1863, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Fredericksburg, Va., and Lieut. Colonel 1st July, 1863, for gallant and meritorious services at the battle of Gettysburg, Pa., where he was killed 1st July, 1863. (Historical Register of the U. S. Army, 1789-1889, Heitman.) (This boy was promoted three times in a single day—the day he lost his life.) R. L. H. "The death of Lieut. Bayard Wilkeson, who commanded Battery G, Fourth U. S. Artillery, was one of the most heroic of the fight. He was but 19 years old and was the son of Samuel Wilkeson, who as correspondent of the "N. Y. Times," was at Meade's headquarters during the fight. Young Wilkeson, by his fearless demeanor, held his battery in an exposed position on the Union right. General John B. Gordon, finding it impossible to advance his Confederate division in the face of Wilkeson's fire, and realizing that if the officer on the horse could be disposed of the battery would not remain, directed two batteries of his command to train every gun upon him. Wilkeson was brought to the ground, desperately wounded, and his horse was killed. He was carried by the Confederates to the Alms House (or dragged himself there—the accounts differ), where he died that night.

Just before he expired, it is said, he asked for water; a canteen was brought to him; as he took it a wounded soldier lying next to him begged, "For God's sake, give me some." He passed the canteen untouched to the man, who drank every drop it contained. Wilkeson smiled on the man, turned slightly and expired."—Editor Century Magazine.

Mr. Reginald L. Hart, of Wayne, who has a notable collection of military buttons, has given to the Museum two interesting buttons associated with Washington. The smaller one was worn by citizens when Washington was President. In the centre are the initials G. W., and above them the words "Long Live the President." The larger one is more elaborate. In its centre are the arms of the United States, while around it are the words, "March the Fourth, 1789, Memorable Aera."